

MLA MADE EASY – 7th ed.

You have plagiarized if (60-61)

- you took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from the notes as if it were all your own.
- while browsing the Web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- you repeated or paraphrased someone's wording without acknowledgment.
- you took someone's unique or particularly apt phrase without acknowledgment.
- you paraphrased someone's argument or presented someone's line of thought without acknowledgment.
- you bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.

You can avoid plagiarism by (61)

- making a list of the writers and viewpoints you discovered in your research and using this list to double-check the presentation of material in your paper.
- keeping the following three categories distinct in your notes: your ideas, your summaries of others' material, and exact wording you copy.
- identifying the sources of all material you borrow—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.
- checking with your instructor when you are uncertain about your use of sources

Heading and Title (116-17)

A research paper does not need a title page. Instead, beginning one inch from the top of the first page and flush with the left margin, type your name, your instructor's name, the course number, and the date on separate lines, double-spacing between the lines. Double-space again and center the title. Double-space also between the lines of the title, and double-space between the title and the first line of the text. Do not italicize or underline your title, put it in quotation marks or boldface, or type it in all capital letters. Follow the rules for capitalization in 3.6.1 and italicize only the words that you would italicize in the text. Do not use a period after your title or after any heading in the paper.

Page Numbers (117-18)

Number all pages consecutively throughout the research paper in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. Type your last name before the page number, as a precaution in case of misplaced pages. Do not use the abbreviation *p.* before a page number or add a period, a hyphen, or any other mark or symbol.

MLA Style (126-27)

In MLA documentation style, you acknowledge your sources by keying brief parenthetical citations in your text to an alphabetical list of works that appears at the end of the paper. The parenthetical citation that concludes the following sentence is typical of MLA style.

The aesthetic and ideological orientation of jazz underwent considerable scrutiny in the late 1950s and early 1960s (Anderson 7).

The citation “(Anderson 7)” tells readers that the information in the sentence was derived from page 7 of a work by an author named Anderson. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the works-cited list, where, under the name Anderson, they would find the following information.

Anderson, Iain. *This Is Our Music: Free Jazz, the Sixties, and the American Culture*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2007. Print. The Arts and Intellectual Life in Mod. Amer.

A citation in MLA style contains only enough information to enable readers to find the source in the works-cited list. If the author’s name is mentioned in the text, only the page number appears in the citation: “(7).” If more than one work by the author is in the list of works cited, a shortened version of the title is given: “(Anderson, *This* 7).” (See ch. 6 for a fuller discussion of parenthetical citations in MLA style.)

BOOKS (148)

1. Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator (for more than one author, see 5.5.4; for a corporate author, see 5.5.5; for an anonymous work, see 5.5.9)
2. Title of the work (italicized)
3. Edition used (see 5.5.13)
4. Number(s) of the volume(s) used (see 5.5.14)
5. City of publication, name of the publisher, and year of publication
6. Medium of publication consulted (*Print*)
7. Supplementary bibliographical information and annotation (see esp. 5.5.15)

- **A Book by a Single Author (148-49)**

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies: British Literary History, 1883-1924*. Columbus: Ohio State UP, 2008. Print.

- **A Book with Two or More Authors (154)**

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Columb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. Print.

- **A Book with More Than Three Authors (155-56)**

Plag, Ingo, et al. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton, 2007. Print.

- **A Book with One Editor (154)**

Weisser, Susan Ostrov, ed. *Women and Romance: A Reader*. New York: New York UP, 2001. Print.

- **A Book by a Corporate Author (156)**

National Research Council. *Beyond Six Billion: Forecasting the World's Population*. Washington: Natl. Acad., 2000. Print.

- **A Work in an Anthology (157-58)**

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock Beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88. Print.

- **An Anonymous Book (162)**

American Heritage Guide to Contemporary Usage and Style. Boston: Houghton, 2005. Print.

AN ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK (160)

Treat an encyclopedia article or a dictionary entry as you would a piece in a collection (5.5.6). If the article is signed, give the author's name first (often articles in reference books are signed with initials identified elsewhere in the work); if it is unsigned, give the title first.

When citing widely used reference books, especially those that frequently appear in new editions, do not give the full publication information. For such works, list only the edition (if stated), the year of publication, and the medium of publication consulted.

- **A Familiar Reference Book (160)**

"Ginsburg, Ruth Bader." *Who's Who in America*. 62nd ed. 2008. Print.

- **A Less Familiar Reference Book (160)**

Allen, Anita L. "Privacy in Health Care." *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*. Ed. Stephen G. Post. 3rd ed. Vol. 4. New York: Macmillan-Thompson, 2004. Print.

- **Taking Sides (Information Center example)**

Jeffery, C.R. "Criminology as an Interdisciplinary Behavioral Science." *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Crime and Criminology*. Ed. Richard C. Monk. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin, 1996. 18-24. Print.

NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, JOURNAL PRINT PUBLICATIONS (136)

1. Author's name (for more than one author see 5.5.4; for a corporate author, see 5.5.5; for an anonymous work, see 5.5.9)
2. Title of the article (in quotation marks)

3. Name of periodical (*italicized*)
4. Series number or name (if relevant; see 5.4.4)
5. Volume number (for a scholarly journal)
6. Issue number (if available, for a scholarly journal)
7. Date of publication (for a scholarly journal, the year; for other periodicals, the day, month, and year, as available)
8. Inclusive page numbers
9. Medium of publication consulted (*Print*)
10. Supplementary information (see esp. 5.4.12)

- **An Article in a Weekly Magazine (143)**

McEvoy, Dermot. "Little Books, Big Success." *Publishers Weekly* 30 Oct. 2006: 26-28. Print.

- **An Article in a Monthly Magazine (143)**

Kates, Robert W. "Population and Consumption: What We Know, What We Need to Know." *Environment* Apr. 2000: 10-19. Print.

- **An Article in a Newspaper (142)**

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." *New York Times* 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+. Print.

- **An Anonymous Article (145)**

"It Barks! It Kicks! It Scores!" *Newsweek* 30 July 2001: 12. Print.

- **An Editorial (146)**

Gergen, David. "A Question of Values." Editorial. *US News and World Report* 11 Feb. 2002: 72. Print.

- **An Article in a Scholarly Journal (137-38)**

In general, after the title of the article, give the journal title (*italicized*), the volume number, a period, the issue number, the year of publication (in parenthesis), a colon, the inclusive page numbers, a period, the medium of publication consulted, and a period. (138)

Piper, Andrew. "Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the Book of Everything." *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-38. Print.

CITING WEB PUBLICATIONS (182)

Inclusion of URLs has proved to have limited value, however, for they often change, can be specific to a subscriber or a session of use, and can be so long and complex that typing them into a browser is cumbersome and prone to transcription errors. Readers are now more likely to find resources on the Web by searching for titles and authors' names than by typing URLs. You should include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. If you present a URL, give it

immediately following the date of access, a period, and a space. Enclose the URL in angle brackets, and conclude with a period.

Eaves, Moris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 28 Sept. 2007. Web. 20 Nov. 2007. <<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>>.

• **A Work Cited Only on the Web (184-85)**

1. Name of the author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work (for more than one author, see 5.5.4; for a corporate author, see 5.5.5; for an anonymous work, see 5.5.9)
2. Title of work (italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work [see 3.6.2-3])
3. Title of the overall website (italicized) if distinct from item 2
4. Version or edition used (see 5.5.13)
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use *n.p.*
6. Date of publication (day, month, year, as available); if nothing is available, use *n.d.*
7. Medium of publication (*Web*)
8. Date of access (day, month, year)

Each item is followed by a period except the publisher or sponsor, which is followed by a comma. Untitled works may be identified by a genre label (e.g., Home page, Introduction, Online posting), neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks, in the place where the title goes (see 5.5.8 and 5.7.7-10 for additional guidance on the use of genre labels). If not otherwise recorded in the entry, the name of a creator of the overall Web site, such as its editor, may be listed following the title of the site. If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.

Liu, Allan, ed. Home page. *Voice of the Shuttle*. Dept. of English, U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 15 May 2008.

“Maplewood, New Jersey.” Map. *Google Maps*. Google, 15 May 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Quade, Alex. “Elite Team Rescues Troops Behind Enemy Lines.” *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 19 Mar. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

“The Scientists Speak.” Editorial. *New York Times*. New York Times, 20 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Tyre, Peg. “Standardized Tests in College?” *Newsweek*. Newsweek, 16 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

- **A Work On the Web Cited with Print Publication Data (187)**

Cascardi, Anthony J. *Ideologies of History in the Spanish Golden Age*. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 1997. *Penn State Romance Studies*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

- **A Work On the Web Cited with Publication Data for Another Medium besides Print (189)**

The Great Train Robbery. Dir. Edward Porter. Thomas Edison, 1903. *Internet Archive*. Web. 5 June 2008.

SPHS ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES MOST OFTEN USED

To cite a work from a periodical in an online database such as an article, a review, an editorial, or a letter to the editor, begin the entry by following the recommendations for citing works in print periodicals, but drop the medium of original publications (*Print*). A periodical article on the web may not include page numbers. If possible, give the inclusive page numbers, or when pagination is not continuous, the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use n.pag. Conclude the entry with the following items:

1. Title of the database (*italicized*)
2. Medium of publication consulted (*Web*)
3. Date of access (day, month, and year)

- **EBSCO**

McKinley, James C., Jr. "Judge-Prosecutor Affair, but No New Trial." *New York Times* 17 Sept. 2009: 19. *MasterFILE Premier*. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

Newton, Heather. "Music Censorship: An Overview." *Points of View: Music Censorship* (2009): 1. *Points of View Reference Center*. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

- **GALE (INFOTRAC)**

Derbyshire, Stuart W.G. "Animal Experimentation Is Ethical." *At Issue: Animal Experimentation*. Ed. Ronnie D. Lankford, Jr. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2009. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

Ross, Anna. "Biotechnology and Cloning." *Scientific Thought: In Context*. Ed. K. Lee Lerner and Brenda Wilmoth Lerner. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2009: 523-31. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

- **SIRS**

Yunus, Muhammad. "Health Care Can Be Made Affordable for the Poor." *Global*

Viewpoint 27 Apr. 2009: n. pag. *SIRS Researcher*. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

Kristof, Nicholas D. "Franklin Delano Obama." *New York Times* 1 Mar. 2009: n. pag.

SIRS Researcher. Web. 19 Oct. 2009.

- **FACTS ON FILE**

Rice, Stanley A. "DNA: Evidence of Evolution." *Encyclopedia of Evolution*. New York:

Facts On File: n. pag. 2006. *Science Online*. Web. 26 Oct. 2009.

Sova, Dawn B. "Hamlet." *Banned Plays: Censorship History of 125 Stage Dramas*. New

York: Facts On File, 2004: n. pag. *Bloom's Literary Reference Online*. Web. 26 Oct.

2009.

CITING ADDITIONAL COMMON SOURCES (193)

- **A Television or Radio Broadcast (193-94)**

1. Title of the episode or segment, if appropriate (in quotation marks)
2. Title of the program or series (italicized)
3. Name of the network (if any)
4. Call letters and city of the local station (if any)
5. Broadcast date
6. Medium of reception (e.g., *Radio*, *Television*)
7. Supplementary Information

"Frederick Douglass." *Civil War Journal*. Narr. Danny Glover. Dir. Craig Haffner. Arts and Entertainment Network. 6 Apr. 1993. Television.

- **A Film or a Video Recording (197)**

An entry for a film usually begins with the title, italicized, and includes the director, the distributor, the year of release, and the medium consulted. You may include other data that seem pertinent – such as the names of the screenwriter, performers, and producer – between the title and the distributor. For films dubbed or subtitled in English, you may give the English title and follow it with the original title, italicized, in square brackets.

It's A Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

- **An Interview (201)**

For purposes of documentation, there are two kinds of interviews: those published or broadcast and those conducted by the researcher. Begin with the name of the person interviewed. If the interview is part of a publication, recording, or program, enclose the title of the interview, if any, in quotation marks; if the interview was published independently, italicize the title. If the interview is untitled, use the descriptive label *Interview*, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks. The interviewer's name may be added if known and pertinent to your paper. Conclude with the appropriate bibliographic information and the medium of publication.

Blanchett, Cate. "In Character with: Cate Blanchett." *Notes on a Scandal*. Dir.

Richard Eyre. Fox Searchlight, 2006. DVD.

Wiesel, Elie. Interview by Ted Koppel. *Nightline*. ABC. WABC, New York. 18 Apr. 2002. Television.

Pei, I. M. Personal interview. 22 July 1993.

- **A Cartoon or Comic Strip (202)**

To cite a cartoon or comic strip, state the artist's name; the title of the cartoon or comic strip (if any), in quotation marks; and the descriptive label *Cartoon* or *Comic Strip*, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks. Conclude with the usual publication information and the medium of publication.

Karsik, Paul. Cartoon. *New Yorker* 14 Apr. 2008: 49. Print.

Trudeau, Garry. "Doonesbury." Comic Strip. *Star-Ledger* [Newark] 4 May 2002: 26. Print.

This handout has been prepared by Ms. P. Massey and Ms. G. Pastula using the official
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th ed.